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THE GAMBIA

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE 1950—52.

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REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE 1950—52.

1. **Introduction.** The last annual report on Development and Welfare was published in July, 1950, in respect of 1949. This report seeks to continue the story for the years 1950, 1951 and 1952.

2. **C.D. and W. Act Funds.** Under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945, £800,000 was made available to the Gambia for general development. A further allocation of £500,000 was earmarked for re-siting the capital in the Kombo. In 1947 the decision to move the capital was abandoned because £500,000 was considered insufficient to meet the cost of moving and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, accepting this view, agreed to allow the allocation of £500,000 to remain, to be devoted to improving Bathurst and the Kombo. In 1951 a further allocation of £200,000 was agreed for the purpose of draining swamps in St. Mary's Island and undertaking further reclamation. The Gambia's share of money under the C.D. and W. Act of 1945 will thus have been:

(i)	£800,000
(ii)	£500,000
(iii)	£200,000
Total	£1,500,000.

3. **Position in January, 1950.** The Report for 1949 shows that at the beginning of 1950 £168,703 was uncommitted from (i) and £302,350 was uncommitted from (ii). The allocation under (iii) had not then been approved.

4. **The Seven Year Plan.** In early 1951, a Seven Year Plan was drawn up to re-cast the schemes on which C.D. and W. funds were committed and in order to amalgamate such Colony funds as could be made available for development with the balance of C.D. and W. funds which had so far not been committed. The total available in January, 1951, was found to be £1,011,000 (including monies committed on existing schemes but not yet spent.)

5. A revision of the Seven Year Plan was prepared in September, 1952. By this time the further allocation referred to in paragraph 2(iii) had been promised and the decision to borrow £200,000 from the Farmers' Fund had been taken: the funds available for development at the 1st January, 1952, were reckoned to have been £1,103,000.

6. **C.D. and W. expenditure, 1950—52.** In the following paragraphs, the main schemes on which C.D. and W. funds have been expended in the years under review are briefly described.

7. **Victoria Hospital. (Schemes D883, 883A, 883B, 883C).** Work on the re-building of Victoria Hospital began in 1948. It is clear now that it was begun without sufficient preparation. There had been delays owing to lack of architectural staff and it was consi-

dered necessary to make a beginning as an earnest of Government's intention to improve conditions in Bathurst now that the scheme for moving the capital had been given up. The result was that the work of construction has taken much longer than was expected. The new hospital, to contain 200 beds, should be finished by the end of 1953 for a total cost of £200,000. During a review which took place in 1952, it was found that to complete the hospital according to the then existing plan of one main block and two ward wings would cost approximately £250,000. This was considered too much to spend on one hospital and other projected works would have had to be unacceptably reduced if this total had had to be set aside. At the same time, the advantage of the Old Military Hospital (which had been used as private quarters since the Army moved out of Bathurst) for permanent hospital use became apparent. The original intention had been to use this temporarily as a hospital while the new wards were being built. This temporary use made everyone appreciate the suitability of the building for permanent incorporation as part of the hospital and it was decided to retain the Old Military Hospital and to dispense with one of the two new ward wings which had been planned.

8. **Bathurst Drainage Scheme.—(Schemes D636A—D636D).** This work was begun in January, 1948, and has certainly been the greatest civil engineering project ever undertaken in the Gambia. The scheme which has been perfected is, however, very different from the plan conceived in 1947. The problem was to prevent the flooding of Bathurst which had been a perennial cause of ill-health and discomfort since the foundation of the capital on the narrow sandbank which constitutes St. Mary's Island. The building of a 2-mile causeway across a mangrove swamp and tidal flats has prevented the incursion of floods and provided storage space for storm water which can be discharged during periods of heavy rainfall by pumping. At the same time, a large area of former swamp has been reclaimed and is available for urban expansion. An ancillary work has been to surface the main roads in Bathurst so that rain water can flow freely into street drains and thence through three outfall drains into the pondage area. The total cost will have been £275,000; £143,600 of this will have been met from C.D. and W. Act funds.

9. **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. (Scheme D1515).** A grant of £35,000 was approved in 1950 for recurrent expenditure on investigations connected with agriculture, fisheries and forestry and a total of about £20,000 has been spent during the years under review. A Forestry Adviser arrived in 1950, his salary and departmental expenses being met from a C.D.W. grant of £11,324 (Scheme D.1335).

10. **Veterinary Services.—(Scheme D1092).** A grant of £45,000 was made in 1949 for capital and recurrent expenditure. Excellent

headquarters were completed in 1951 at Abuko, 12 miles from Bathurst, at a cost of about £30,000, £26,616 of this being recovered from the C.D. and W. grant. The balance of £18,385 was available for recurrent expenditure and about 50% of this will have been received up to the end of 1952.

11. **Education. (Scheme D727A).** £20,000 of C.D. and W. funds was spent on recurrent expenditure in 1951. An allocation of £100,000 for capital expenditure on new school buildings has not so far been spent but is earmarked for the reconstruction of Armitage School and schools in Bathurst. Plans and estimates for these buildings are awaited.

12. **Other Major Capital Works.** There are three major capital works for which C.D. and W. grants are intended but for which detailed schemes have not been prepared. They are:

(i) Lay-out of the land which has been reclaimed under the Bathurst Drainage Scheme; (£150,000)

(ii) An embankment at Oyster Creek; (£60,000)

(iii) A further drainage scheme for St. Mary's Island; (£50,000).

Certain preliminary investigations of (i) and (ii) have been undertaken in 1952 and it is hoped that when schemes have been approved the amounts spent on investigations will be recovered from C.D. and W. funds.

13. **Projected Schemes.** Apart from the works referred to in paragraph 12, there are several projects which have been planned but for which grants had not been made by the end of 1952. These are:

(i) Bathurst Water Supplies. A.C.D. and W. grant (Scheme D.1061) was received in 1949 for investigational work. This was supplemented by approximately £20,000 from local sources. An application was made in 1952 for renewing the machinery at Abuko, augmenting the supply by connecting one of the bore-holes sunk during investigations, and for erecting an over-head storage tank with a capacity of 200,000 gallons in Bathurst. If this application is approved an adequate supply of good drinking water in Bathurst will be assured whereas at present the maintenance of supplies is precarious, particularly at the end of the dry season.

(ii) Bathurst Streets. It is intended to apply for a grant of £90,000 to make up and surface the streets of Bathurst. The main arteries of the town will have been re-made and drained under the Bathurst Drainage Scheme which is described in paragraph 8 above and which was all but complete at the end of the period under review. The

advantages of streets with impermeable surfaces, off which rain quickly flows, have come to be appreciated by the urban community now that some of the roads are so surfaced and there is a strong popular demand for all the streets in Bathurst to be re-made.

(iii) Mansa Konko Water Supply. An application has been made for a grant of £6,000 to sink a bore-hole at Mansa Konko. An overhead tank has already been erected out of Government funds. At present water has to be distributed in drums by lorry.

14. **Unallocated Funds.** The balance of monies promised under C.D. and W. has not yet been earmarked for any particular scheme but will have to be spent before the Act comes to an end in 1956. It appeared likely, towards the end of 1952, that in order to make sure that all the grants would be economically used during the operation of the Act it would be necessary to engage additional engineering staff for the supervision and execution of the remaining capital works. If this proves to be the case, it is probable that a C.D. and W. scheme will be submitted during 1953 for paying for additional technical staff.

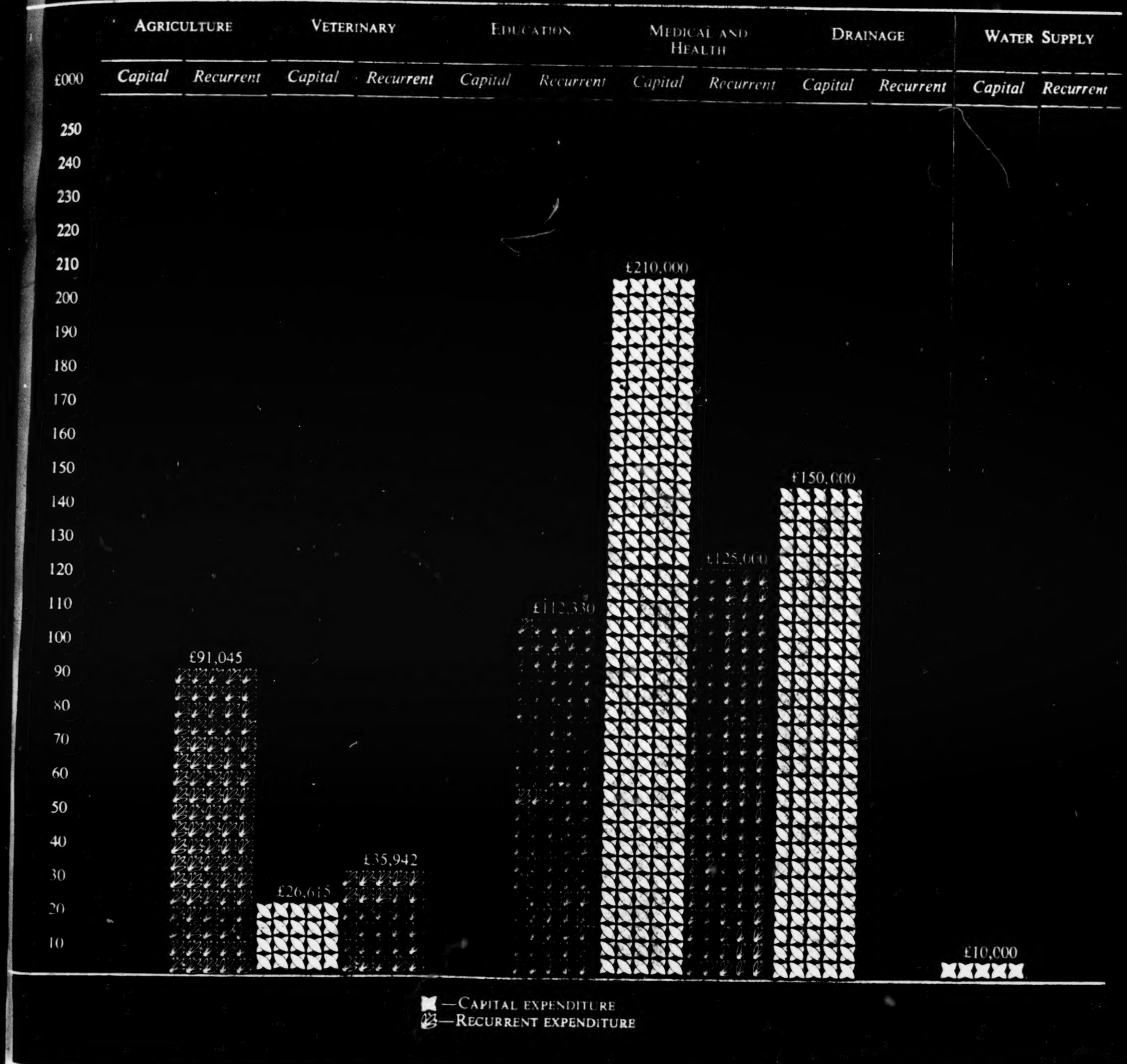
15. **Central C.D. and W. Funds.** In addition to the allocations described in paragraph 2 above, the Gambia has been the recipient of central C.D. and W. assistance over scholarships, soil science research and sociological research. Advantage has also been derived from the Central C.D. and W. grant to the Medical Research Council which has its field station at Fajara.

16. **The Farmers' Fund.** The Farmers' Fund is entirely separate from the Colonial Development and Welfare Act but it is necessary to mention it here as otherwise the description of ways on which C.D. and W. funds have been expended might indicate a dubiously economic programme of development. A fund has been established (the Farmers' Fund), containing some £2,000,000, being the reserves built up from the difference between the price paid by the Ministry of Food for groundnuts and the price paid locally to the farmer. This fund is held in trust by the Government and monies from it can be used for such projects as are deemed beneficial to the farming community. Several schemes for agricultural improvements have been made during the years under review and it is the Farmers' Fund which is the main source of expenditure for economic development.

17. **Appendices.** Appendix "A" sets forth the main objects on which C.D. and W. monies have been spent. Appendix "B" shows the Seven Year Plan forecast as at the 31st December, 1952.

APPENDIX A.

MAIN OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT OF 1945 UP TO DECEMBER 1952



(1) Estimated balance of C. D. & W. funds: .. .. .. £680,000.
(2) Colony's Surplus funds (less irreducible reserve of £400,000) .. £42,000.
(3) Loan from Farmers' Fund: .. .. £200,000.
Estimated Total .. .. £922,000.

In £000

(a)	(b) SCHEME	(c) Estimated total expenditure to 31. 12. 52		(d) Estimates 1953		(e) Estimates 1954–56	
		C. D. & W.	Other sources	C. D. W.	Other sources	C. D. W.	Other sources
	A. CAPITAL WORKS.						
1.	Victoria Hospital	136		64	—	—	—
2.	Bathurst Drainage	129	131	15	—	—	—
3.	Bathurst Water Supply ..	16	18	30	—	38	2
4.	Electricity		22	—	100	—	58
5	Bathurst Schools	—	—	5	—	55	—
6.	Armitage School	—	—	5	—	35	—
7.	Mansa Konko Water Supply			6	—	—	—
8.	Bathurst Streets			20	—	70	—
9.	Lay-out reclaimed area ..	8		10	—	132	—
10.	Oyster Creek embankment .	3		20	—	37	—
11.	St. Mary's Island Drainage ..			1	—	49	—
	B. CONTRIBUTION TO SERVICES.						
12.	Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry	20		10	—	5	—
13.	Veterinary	36		3	—	6	—
	C.						
14.	Unspecified			—	—	—	—
15	Unallocated			—	—	—	—
	TOTAL	342	171	189	100	427	60

The Seven Year Plan as at 31. 12. 52.

APPENDIX B

balance of C. D. & W. funds: .. .. .. £680,000.
Surplus funds (less irreducible reserve of £400,000) .. £42,000.
n Farmers' Fund: .. .. £200,000.
Estimated Total .. .. £922,000.

	(c) Estimated total expenditure to 31. 12. 52.		(d) Estimates 1953		(e) Estimates 1954–56		(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
RKS.	C. D. W.	Other sources	C. D. W.	Other sources	C. D. W.	Other sources	Total cost of Project	Estimated gross C. D. W. expenditure 1953-56	Estimated gross expenditure from other sources 1953–56	Gross estimated expenditure 1953–56
	136	—	64				200	64	—	64
	129	131	15				275	15	—	15
ly	10	18	30		38	2	98	68	2	70
..		22	—	100		58	180	—	158	158
..	—	—	5		55	—	60	60	—	60
..	—	—	5		35		40	40	—	40
r Supply	—	—	6			—	6	6	—	6
..	—	—	20		70		90	90	—	90
ea ..	8	—	10		132		150	142	—	142
tment ..	3	—	20		37		60	57	—	57
inage ..	—	—	1		49		50	50	—	50
SERVICES.										
, Forestry	20	—	10		5		35	15	—	15
..	36	—	3		6		45	9	—	9
..	—	—	—							
..	—	—	—						13	13
								64	69	133
..	342	171	189	100	427	60	1,289	680	242	922